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NOMINATION:
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NEW
SERIES

SCOTT
SNYDER
RAFAEL
ALBUQUERQUE

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15 Jul '11
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mature readers
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THEY CAME OUT OF
THE SHADOWS AND
BEFORE WE KNEW IT,
THEY WERE
EVERYWHERE.
VAMPIRES...

BUT A KIND NONE OF
US HAD EVER SEEN
BEFORE. THEY WERE
WILD AND TERRIBLE,
BLIND WITH HUNGER.

AND THE SMELL, PEARL...
THAT DARK BARTHEN
SMELL, LIKE THEY'D COME
SCRAMBLING STRAIGHT
OUT OF THE DIRT.

WE
GOTTA
MOVE!

WE'D COME TO TAIWAN
TO TAKE DOWN ANY
VAMPIRE THREAT TO
ALLIED FORCES.

BUT WE WERE THE ONES BEING
WIPED OUT. THEY'D ALREADY
TAKEN ONE OF US, JOHNNY
TICKMAN, AND NOW THEY WERE
OUT TO FINISH US OFF.

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JESUS CHRIST.
THAT'S...

...JOHNNY.
BUT HOW DID
HE CHANGE SO
FAST?

HSSSSSSSS



CAL,
BEHIND US,
WE GOT
ISSUES.

FUCK!



I GOT
LESS THAN
A GLIP
LEFT.
I'M
POORER
THAN
YOU.



HSSSSSSSS







MS. JONES!
FOR WHAT IT'S
WORTH...

IF YOU
ASK ME, WHAT
YOU'RE DOING
IS QUITE
NOBLE.



I
DIDN'T
ASK
YOU.



IT'S
HOBBS.

JONES, THE
AMERICAN, SHE'S
ON BOARD...



"...RIGHT
WHERE WE
WANT HER."

SAFE.

YOU SAFE
HERE.

CLACK

WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?

IT'S A
BUNKER.



SOME KIND OF
SAFE HOUSE. IT RUNS
BENEATH A WHOLE
GROUP OF THE
VILLAGE HOMES.



SAM, VICAR, WE
THOUGHT YOU
WERE DEAD.

WE
WERE AS
GOOD
AS...



...UNTIL THEY PULLED
US DOWN HERE.

THEY?
THERE ARE
MORE PEOPLE
DOWN HERE?

THERE,
BY THE FAR
WALL.



APPARENTLY,
THEY'RE ALL
THAT'S LEFT OF
THE VILLAGE.

JESUS.
PIKE
MADE IT,
TOOT

FOR THE MOST PART.

HE'S BANGED UP BAD, THOUGH.

WAS HE BITTEN?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO. JUST CLAW WOUNDS.

YOU THINK, OR YOU KNOW, PRIVATE PRESTON?

I KNOW. IF HE WAS INFECTED, HE'D BE ONE OF THEM BY NOW.

RIDICULOUS. EVERY KNOWN SPECIES TAKES HOURS TO TRANSFORM A VICTIM.

NOT THIS KIND.

JOHNNY CAME AFTER US UP THERE. HE WAS ALREADY ONE OF THEM.

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

IT'S TRUE. I SAW ONE OF THOSE THINGS BITE HIM, SPEAR HIM, AND TOSS HIM.

HENRY AND ME ONLY MADE IT A QUARTER MILE BEFORE HE WAS ONE OF THEM. FULL TRANSFORMATION TOO.



YOU'RE SAYING...

I'M SAYING THAT THIS SPECIES, WHATEVER IT IS, INFECTS BY BITE.



AND ONE BITE WILL TURN YOU INTO ONE OF THEM IN A MATTER OF MINUTES.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, THOUGH, JOHNNY. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF HIM IN THAT THING. IT WAS HIM, BUT IT... WASN'T.



DIFFERENT BLOODLINES INFECT IN DIFFERENT WAYS. CERTAIN LINES, MOST OF THE EUROPEAN ONES, LIKE THE CLASSIC CARPATHIAN, THEY DESTROY PARTS OF THE HOST'S PERSONALITY, BUT LEAVE OTHERS INTACT.

MOST BLOODLINES LEAVE YOU A PREDATORY, COLD VERSION OF YOURSELF.



CORRECTION: AN EVIL VERSION OF YOURSELF.





"...AND WE WILL
BURN IT TO
THE GROUND."



I HEARD
THIS IS A BAD
ONE. LOTS OF
CASUALTIES.



THIS
YOUR
FIRST
TIME?

SORT
OF...
YES.



YOU'LL DO FINE, SO
LONG AS YOU'RE NOT
SQUEAMISH ABOUT BLOOD.
IF YOU ARE, YOU BETTER
GET OVER THAT. AND
FAST.



HEH, YEAH,
I'LL WORK
ON IT.

"RISE
AND SHINE,
BOYS..."

...ACCORDING TO THE VILLAGERS, THIS "BAD PLACE" IS ABOUT A MILE AND A HALF FROM HERE. HIDDEN IN THE NORTHERN ROCK-FACE.

AND YOU THINK IT'S A PRISON CAMP OF SOME KIND?

THAT'S WHAT THEY SEEM TO THINK IT IS.



BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. WHY WOULD THE JAPANESE MILITARY BUILD A PRISON CAMP ON A VAMPIRE-INFESTED ISLAND?



GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT FOR OURSELVES WON'T WE?









KILL
YOU? MY
AMERICAN
FRIEND...



"...WHAT A
WASTE THAT
WOULD BE..."



"FOR AS YOU WILL
SOON LEARN..."

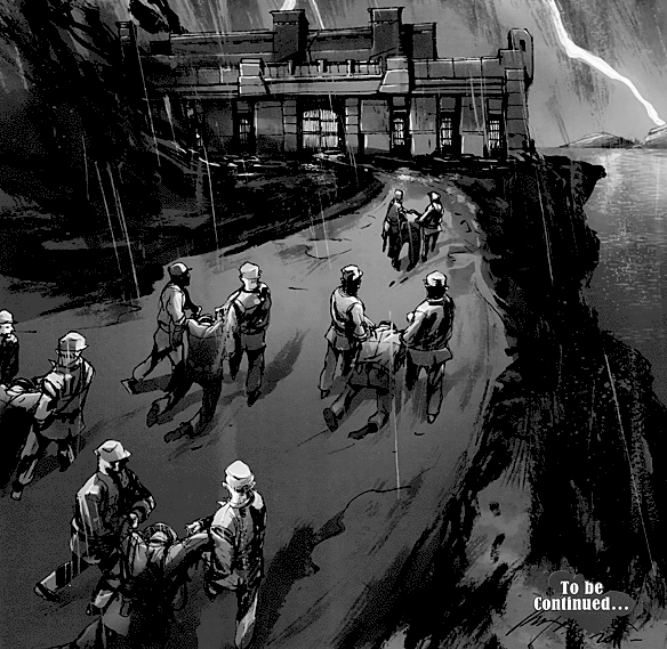
"THERE ARE
FATES MUCH
WORSE THAN
DEATH..."

GHOST WAR

SCOTT SNYDER RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

DAVE MCCAIG PAT BROSSAU JOE HUGHES MARK DOYLE

AMERICAN VAMPIRE *created by* SNYDER & ALBUQUERQUE



To be
Continued...

AMERICAN VAMPIRE

MARK DOYLE EDITOR

AMERICAN VAMPIRE #15

Hey, guys,

It's late, the office is almost empty, I'm leaving tomorrow for the Barcelona comic convention (I know, tough job, right? But somebody's gotta do it...) and I have a million things to do before I go, but I wanted to take some time to see what you guys have to say before I take off...

OH! Before I forget, I wanted you all to know that AMERICAN VAMPIRE was nominated for an Eisner Award for Best New Series! <applause!> Congrats to Scott, Rafael and Mr. Stephen King too. (Can you believe it? Guy writes his first comic and he gets nominated for an Eisner! I knew there was something special about him.) Thanks to all of you for reading and helping us with all of this success—we wouldn't be here without your support. Now on to your letters!

Dear Editor,

I really enjoy AMERICAN VAMPIRE and think it is one of the best comic series out there. My question relates to your recent guest artist Mateus Santolouco. I was taken with how similar his art is to that of regular artist Rafael Albuquerque. Both of them are just awesome. How hard was it to find such a similar artist to handle a few issues? And, who handles locating a guest artist at a title like Vertigo: the series creator or the editor (or both)?

Keep up the good work,

Dean Stell
Walkertown, NC

Thanks for writing, Dean. And thanks for the kind words about Mateus. He's a great guy and an awesome talent too. It's an editor's job to find an artist for the book. We knew we wanted to give Rafael a break for a few issues and give him time to jump ahead and get started on our current, epic WWII tale. So I was searching for someone who could match Rafael's vibe but be his own man too. I was talking to Rafael about it and he said, "Hey, you should talk to my friend Mateus..." a fantastic artist in his own right AND he shares a studio with Rafael, so we knew he could be right there to guide him.

The end result was two awesome issues, and we hope to have him back again soon! Also, check out the upcoming hardcover AMERICAN VAMPIRE Volume 2 (in stores in May!) for some great "audition" sketches from Mateus that got him the gig.

Dear Editor,

AMERICAN VAMPIRE is bad ass, guys. Keep up the good work. No one is making books like this right now!

James Cooper
Toronto, ON

Thanks, James! I agree with you, AMERICAN VAMPIRE IS bad ass! I'm glad you agree because that's exactly what we set out to do with this book. Vampires had been kidnapped. We needed to fix that. It's kinda like what Bono said at the beginning of U2's "Rattle and Hum": "This is a song that Charles Manson stole from the Beatles—we're stealing it back!" Then they rip into "Helter Skelter." Bad ass. Vampires had been stolen too, and we're stealing 'em back!

Dear Mark,

As promised (via Twitter), here is a handwritten letter from my 3-year-old son, Milo. He's a big comic book fan, especially superhero books. Probably worth something one day; clearly the kid's got talent.

Thanks,
Benjamin Bailey
Provo, UT

P.S. You guys are putting out some of the best books on the stands. AMERICAN VAMPIRE is beyond amazing.

Hey, Benjamin (and Milo)! Wow! Thanks a lot! As mentioned above, it's the editor's job to find new artists and, let me just say I

think my search for the next hot talent is over! This kid is going places!

Now, on a serious note, Benjamin, I don't want to tell you how to do your job, but, um...don't you think Milo is a little young to be reading AMERICAN VAMPIRE?

To Mark Doyle,

I would like to simply say thank you for editing a book that has been refreshing, engaging, fun and outside of the normal for me in AMERICAN VAMPIRE. I was looking for a book to collect that was outside of my super hero norm and I love vampire tales, so I figured I would give AV a shot. I purchased the Volume 1 hardcover and the single issues and became addicted. Scott Snyder's twisted tale of Skinner, Pearl, Henry and Mattie has been what vampire books should be like. Rafael's art has been incredible; he truly sucks (heh) you into the world of AV. The entire team of AV has my gratitude for all their hard work and effort to



create such a wonderful, disturbingly beautiful comic, and I will be spending my hard-earned cash on it until the ride is over! Thanks again and know it is very much appreciated by this lifelong comic fan!

Ruiz Moreno
Dallas, TX

Hey, Ruiz, thanks for writing (and tweeting!) about **AMERICAN VAMPIRE**. Your enthusiasm and support is much appreciated, man. So keep it up!

And I hope you have lots of "hard-earned cash" socked away because we have a LONG way to go before this ride is over. Just the other day Scott was in my office and we had a GREAT conversation about the next story arc. Oh, man...I can't say anything yet...but, trust me, this next story is going to be downright dirty...

Well, that's it for now. I gotta go pack my bags for Barcelona, but don't worry, **AMERICAN VAMPIRE** will be in the very capable hands of Joe Hughes. What's that, Joe? You're pissed at me for going to Barcelona and leaving you with all this work? You're going to do what? Make all the vampires in the next issue SPARKLE!!!! Just kidding, folks, Joe wouldn't do that! He's got it all under control.

--Mark

To submit a letter to the editor go to:

www.dclatterspage.com

Letters may be sent by regular mail to this address:

Letters to the Editor

DC Comics

1700 Broadway

New York, NY 10019

ATTN: VERTIGO

Please include your full name, address, and telephone number for confirmation purposes. Letters should be no longer than 500 words and should not include attachments. Letters may be edited for length or clarity and may be published in any medium. Letters become the property of DC Comics. Unpublished letters will not be returned or acknowledged. Published letters may identify the writer by first name, hometown, state or country.

AMERICAN VAMPIRE # 16



VERTIGO

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO:
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THE HOTLIST



DELIRIUM'S PARTY: A LITTLE ENDLESS STORYBOOK

The diminutive versions of the Endless from Neil Gaiman's **SANDMAN** myths are back by popular demand in **DELIRIUM'S PARTY: A LITTLE ENDLESS STORYBOOK**.

In an effort to rid Despair of her unhappiness once and for all, Little Delirium throws a party for her dour sister and invites siblings Dream, Destruction, Death, Destiny and Desire. But this is no ordinary affair. We're talking about a party planner who is the personification of delirium, so you can only imagine that this event will be as outrageous and unpredictable as Little Delirium's haircolor. But whether **Delirium's Party** will be a smashing success – or whether it will end in tears – is anyone's guess.

Brought to life through whimsical prose and watercolor by multiple award-winner Jill Thompson, **DELIRIUM'S PARTY: A LITTLE ENDLESS STORYBOOK** will be an affair to remember for all time – and all ages.



AMERICAN VAMPIRE VOL. 2

In this second volume, collecting issues #6-11 of the hit Vertigo series, it's Las Vegas circa 1935, and Skinner Sweet and our gal Pearl are about to learn the hard way that the bloodsuckers in Hollywood were nothing compared to what awaits them in Sin City.

In just a few short years, young police chief Cash McCogan has watched his native city of Las Vegas go from cow-town to wild, glittering boomtown. And when the bodies of prominent businessmen start showing up drained of blood, Chief McCogan finds himself facing a threat much darker and deadlier than anything he could have imagined... and the only sure bet in town is that Skinner and Pearl are right in the thick of it.

AMERICAN VAMPIRE #15
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05.11
THE HIT LIST

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ON THE

LE DGE

DONG XOAI,
VIETNAM 1965Written and Illustrated by
Joe Kubert

JOE KUBERT

Born in 1926, Joe Kubert began his comics career at the age of eleven. He has worked in the industry ever since, and in his more than sixty years in the field he has produced countless memorable stories for countless characters, including DC's Hawkman, Tarzan, Enemy Ace, Batman, the Flash, Sgt. Rock, and his best known creation—a heroic caveman named Tor. Kubert was also one of the first creators to embrace the long-form version of comics that became known as graphic novels. In 1996 he produced *Fox From Sarajevo*, a gripping graphic narrative that earned him accolades in the mainstream and trade press alike. Kubert has also been a pioneer in the realm of comics education. In 1976 he founded the first and only accredited school devoted solely to the art of cartoon graphics: The Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art in Dover, New Jersey, which has since produced many of today's leading cartoonists. Kubert lives in New Jersey, two of his five children, Adam and Andy, have also achieved great popularity as comic book artists.

BY Joe Kubert

It might be of interest for you to learn how and why I came to do the three graphic novels DC is reprinting this month.

I'll start with **DONG XOAI**—pronounced “*dong shwai*” for those of us who don't speak Vietnamese.

Back in the '60s, I was doing a syndicated newspaper strip titled “*Tales of the Green Berets*,” based on the book written by Robin Moore. I did some promotional illustrations about a Medal of Honor winner.

Flash forward to 2007. I got a call from a retired Colonel, Bill Stokes, in North Carolina. A man I'd never met. The reason for his contacting me was the following: he'd served as an advisor in Vietnam in 1965, Captain of a team of Special Forces men. He'd kept in touch with his group, meeting every year with families and friends. He acted as corresponding secretary, mailing news of friends' status, etc. So why had he called me? Well, he also ran pictures in his newsletters, one of which was a drawing I'd done forty plus years ago of a Medal of Honor winner. He was one of the men on Bill's team of advisors. Current problem was, the copy he had was dog-eared and smudged. Did I have a clean copy?

I had no idea where the drawing was, but I told him I'd be more than happy to redo the drawing for him. “How much would you charge?” he asked. I laughed. “No charge. But, I'd like to see a copy of the newsletter,” I said. Done deal.

A couple of days later, I got the newsletter in the mail from Bill Stokes. It told of a hand-to-hand battle that took place in Vietnam in 1965. It was a story that I *had* to do.

JEW GANGSTER is an admonishment I'd heard often when I was growing up in East New York, in Brooklyn, during the Depression years of the 1930s. Money was really hard to come by, and some young people growing up in my neighborhood resorted to less than legal ways to acquire it. Some of my friends had gotten into trouble, and gangs like “Murder, Inc.” were admired by many despite the violence and bloodletting they engendered. My father's words were not to grow up to be a “Jew Gangster.” The novel's mother and father are my mother and father. Their daughter is my sister Ida.

YOSSEL is my “what if” story. My parents left Poland and came to America in 1926. I was two months old. My father's motivation was to have his children grow up in a country that afforded opportunities. As the years passed, we learned of the horrors that befell the families who remained in Europe. The whole world learned and recoiled from the horrors visited upon humanity and Jews in particular.

The full realization of what my own family and I had avoided struck me. Stories of the atrocities, the mass murder of millions of innocents, the concentration camps. I came to think, “What would've happened to me and my family if my parents *hadn't* decided to emigrate to America?” I felt this was the way to tell my story of “What if—?”

These books are meaningful to me because they are pieces of my life.

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